

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)historic St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church Ruinsand/or common Italy Ghost Roman Catholic Church Ruins**2. Location**street & number east side of Old Court Road; north bank of Patapsco River ☐ not for publicationcity, town Woodstock ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Sixthstate Maryland county Baltimore**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)name Department of Natural Resourcesstreet & number Tawes State Office Bldg. telephone no.:city, town Annapolis state and zip code MD 21401**5. Location of Legal Description**courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street &amp; number folio

city, town Towson state MD**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveystitle DNR Surveydate 1978-79 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Department of Natural Resourcescity, town Annapolis state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-1580

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated  
☒ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

## Draft--St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church Ruins

The St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church was a stone church <sup>built in 1885</sup> that was destroyed by fire in <sup>1968.</sup> ~~the early nineteen seventies.~~ The structure now stands as deteriorating stone walls. The stone work was <sup>dressed</sup> ~~pressed~~ stone with <sup>thin</sup> mortar joints and granite keystones and ~~l~~ <sup>l</sup>entels. The church had a gable roof over a rectangular plan. The main facade had a gable-roofed vestibule. Built in <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>G</sup>othic style, the structure had stone buttresses <sup>and</sup> ~~in~~ pointed arch and round arch ~~l~~ <sup>at the</sup> ~~entels~~ doorways and windows. The stone work on the structure was extremely well-executed. ~~The fire occurred in nineteen sixty eight. The building was constructed in 1885.~~

The St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church ruins are located on a bank overlooking the Patapsco River. The main facade faces south and the site quickly <sup>slopes</sup> ~~slips~~ off ~~down~~ towards the river <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ a sharp <sup>angle.</sup> ~~slope.~~ This site provided a <sup>prestigious</sup> ~~quite romantic~~ location for the church being ~~a~~ <sup>an</sup> a prominent rise <sup>adjoining</sup> ~~next to~~ the bridge that ~~went~~ over the Patapsco at this location along Old Court Road.

The main facade consisted of a stone vestibule centrally located with ~~ground-arch~~, lancet windows in the outer two bays of the three bay facade. In the gable <sup>is</sup> ~~with~~ a large round-arch window with a smaller round-arch window above it. <sup>The</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>l</sup> ~~l~~entels of the doorways and windows are of a finer granite stone. The <sup>dressed</sup> ~~dressed~~ stones include keystones and voussiors. The gable windows have curved molding-like carving. The east facade <sup>and</sup> ~~deteriorated/~~ collapsed or was probably fenestrated in a manner similar to the west facade. When differences at the east facade ran straight to

the rear of the structure while the west facade does have a projection in the altar area. Fenestration however is pointed arch lancet windows of the Gothic style--four along the sod. In between the windows and at the corners are short buttresses which have angular stone work at the top pieces of a ornamental and functional nature. The north facade was four bays wide. The north facade had three windows, two large pointed arch windows semetrically located in the facade in a smaller pointed arch window on the eastern most corner. This facade also had a rounded arch window in the gable. Other details of the church are difficult to discern because of the damage done in the fire. There are some moldings retained in the window frames that show the window frames to have had wide quarter round bolection moldings. On the east facade there was also one cellar window in an entrance into the basement.

The structure follows fairly standard late nineteenth century design features of the Gothic Revival. This includes the execution of the stone work in the structure and the ornamental features in the stone lentils.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-1980

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

DRAFT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## ST. ALPHONSUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH RUINS

The St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church ruins stand as an impressive memorial to the Gothic Revival Church that once stood on the site. The site itself is dramatic with its sharp slope down to the Patapsco River. This prominence was accented by the vertical orientation of the Gothic Revival style. Built in 1885, the structure stood as a classic example of ecclesiastical architecture in this region.

The church was destroyed by fire in 1968. The ruins, while standing as a monument to the early church, are beginning to suffer from severe deterioration.



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. BA-1580

Magi No. 0315801608

DOE yes no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common OLD ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

## 2. Location

street & number Old Court Road (MD. Rte. 125 (at the bridge over Patapsco River not for publicationcity, town Woodstock vicinity of congressional district 6thstate Maryland county Baltimore

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>district</u>	<u>X</u> public	<u>occupied</u>	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>private</u>	<u>X</u> unoccupied	<u>commercial</u>
<u>X</u> structure	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>
<u>site</u>	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>
	<u>not applicable</u>	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>
			<u>X</u> other: burned out

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name State of Maryland

street & number Old Court Road telephone no.: --city, town Woodstock state and zip code Maryland 21163

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courthouse, Land Records liber 5206street & number Washington & Pennsylvania Avenues folio 389city, town Towson state Maryland 21204

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title unknowndate federal X state county localdepository for survey recordscity, town state



## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-1580

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☒ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

- ⊗ A small church structure has stood on a hillside overlooking the Patapsco River since 1885. The old St. Alphonsus Church formed an important part of the Granite (Baltimore County)-Woodstock (Howard County) community for nearly one hundred years. A fire destroyed the roof and the interior of the church in 1968, but the four Granite block walls remain intact.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-1580

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Crossing the Patapsco River on Maryland Route 125 on the newly constructed two-lane bridge, one can look to see a fine old example of a country church. This burned out church structure is a monument to the granite quarry industries that flourished in this area during the 19th and early part of the 20th centuries. The old church was built in 1885 out of the granite stones quarried nearby. Granite blocks from these quarries were used to build many of the old buildings in Baltimore City and even in Washington, D. C. The sight of this church standing on a hillside overlooking the newly constructed bridge over the Patapsco River would be a substantial contribution to the memory of Maryland's granite rock industries and to the beauty of the landscape.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-1580

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of nominated property** 1/3 acre

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**C**

**D** 

**E**

**F**

**G**

**H**

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Reverend Richard Harper, S.J. Pastor
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**organization** St. Alphonsus Church

**date** August 5, 1982

**street & number** 10817 Davis Avenue

**telephone** 328-2267

city or town Woodstock

**state** Maryland 21163

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. Alphonsus Church Ruins

AND/OR COMMON

Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church Ruins

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Old Court Road

CITY, TOWN

Woodstock [Granite]

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☒ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Court House

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☒ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church is a stone shell without roof, floors or fenestration, all timber having disappeared in the severe fire of 197 .

The ashlar granite walls define a rectangular nave with rectangular vestibule and chancel at the longitudinal extremes. The end walls of the nave and chancel are gables. The nave is three bays long with three pointed arch windows and four buttresses. The vestibule and chancel have two lancet windows each and two buttresses. The entrance doors of both vestibule and nave are pointed arches.

There are wide and low pointed-arch openings in the gables, that of the entrance wall of the nave having a small circular window above it. All voussoirs, springers, keystones and buttress weatherings are of granite which is more finely finished than the ashlar of the walls, but of the same stone.

The church is oriented toward the river rather than the road, the ground sloping very steeply down from the apse to the vestibule and thence to the Patapsco. The entrance is reached by a series of walks and steps, and there is another long flight of steps from the entrance down to the floodplain.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

A picturesque ruin, the remains of a parish church operated by Jesuits from Woodstock College. The structure burned in 1968.

Recommendations

The stone shell is quite stable at this date (summer 1978), and could conceivably be reused, if need be. In the meantime, it is a picturesque ruin. The walls should be capped immediately to prevent deterioration, the interior cleared of debris and packed with fill to the door level to prevent accidents.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John D. Hnedak, Historic Sites Survey Team Captain

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

1978-79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

543

834

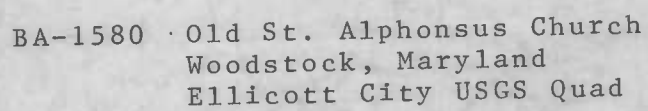
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59°22'30"

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342 50

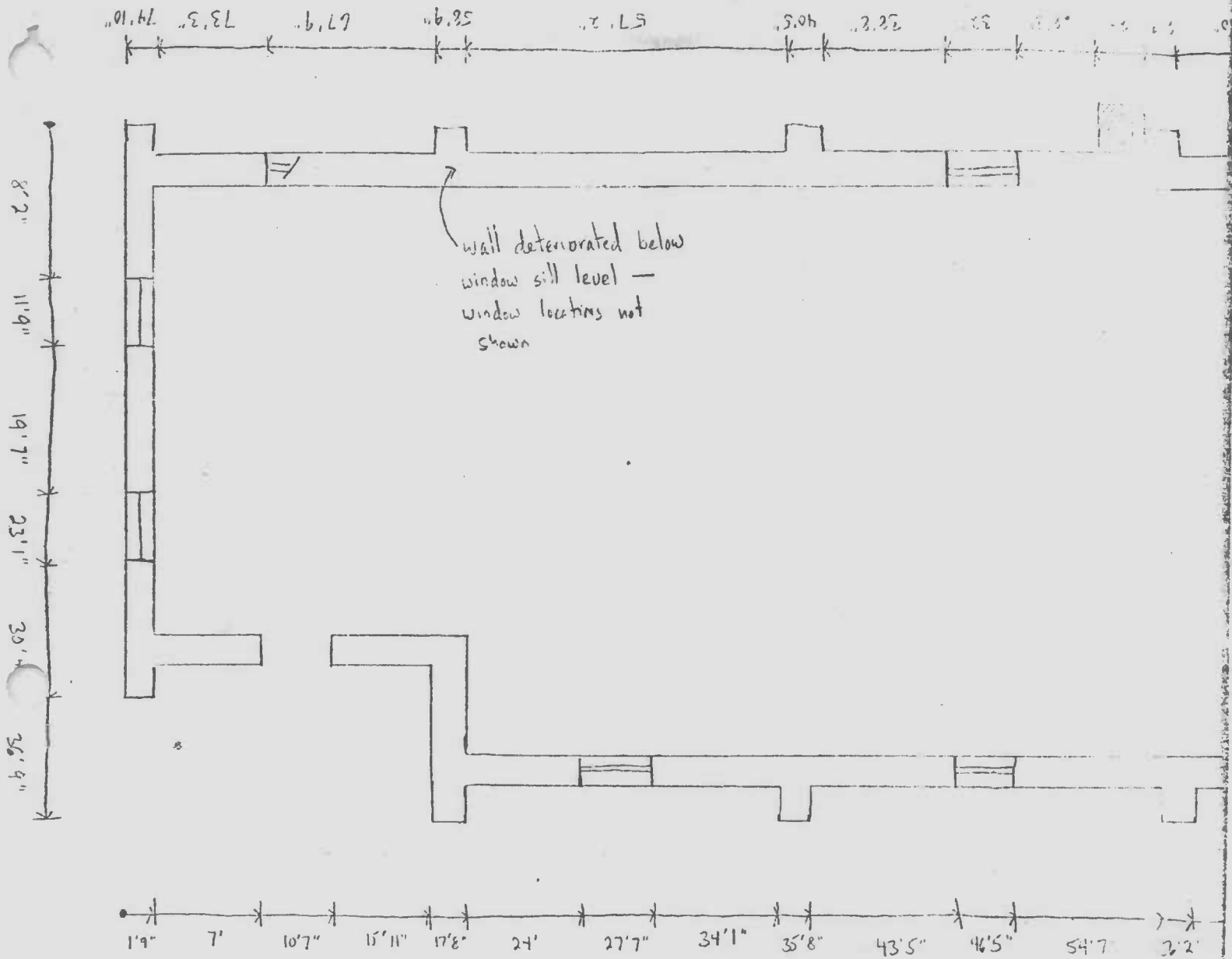


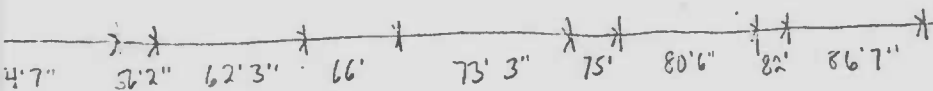
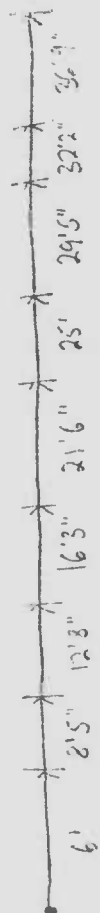
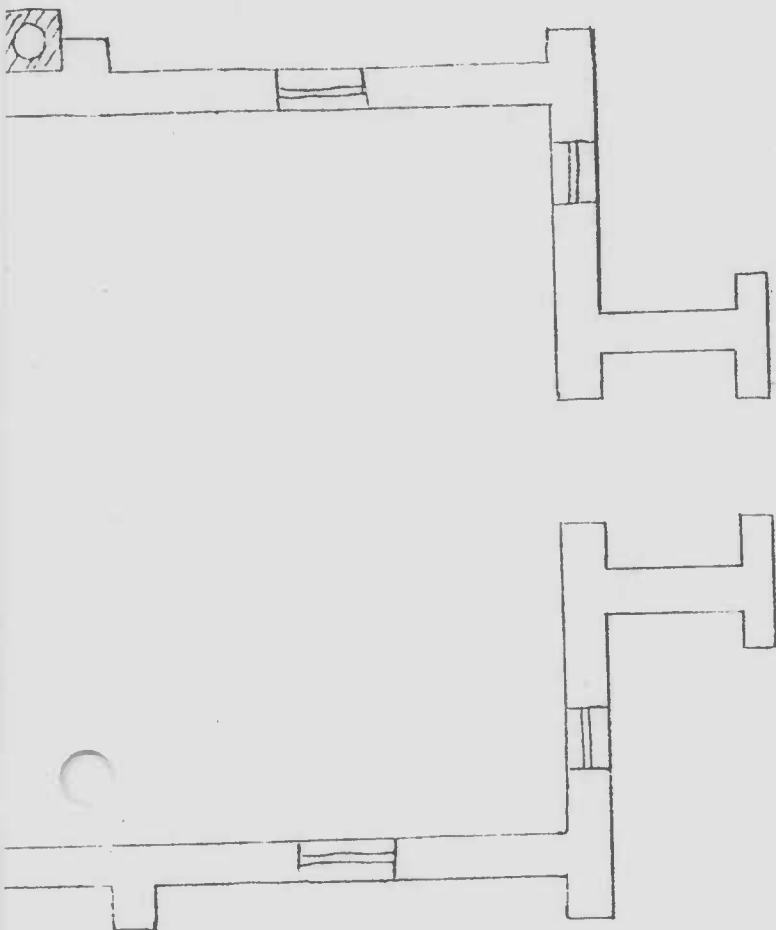
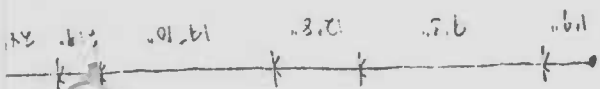


BA-1580  
 ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH RUINS  
 Old Court Road

12/83 J. Getty

scale  $\frac{1}{8}" = 1 \text{ foot}$





11" fronts - 10 stairs in front flight  
2 more flights down to sewer



COLIANNE BARNs (139, 140)

COLIANNE HOUSE RUINS

SMITH (135)

GRIGGS (136)

Granite

Sylvan Dell

Cem. Cherry Hill Ch

WOODSTOCK (1127)

HOUSE & LAUNDRY Little Flower Sch

WARFIELD FARM (117-128)

HOLY GHOST CHURCH RUINS (133)

REC CENTER (134)

BA-1580

Woodstock

HOWARD CO BALTIMORE CO

Davis

RUNSI (1141)



HOLY GHOST R.C. CHURCH RUINS

BA-1580

PATAPSCO 133

FROM WEST

JDH

MARCH 1979



BA-1580





BA-1580

BA-1580